A PICTORIAL GUIDE TO THE SPECIES OF *ENCARSIA* (HYMENOPTERA: APHELINIDAE) PARASITIC ON WHITEFLIES (HOMOPTERA: ALEYRODIDAE) IN NORTH AMERICA

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Abstract.—The 27 species of *Encarsia* (Hymenoptera: Aphelinidae) occurring in North America (including Mexico) and attacking whiteflies (Homoptera: Aleyrodidae) are treated. Each species is keyed and illustrated. A separate diagnosis, list of hosts, and summary of distribution are provided.

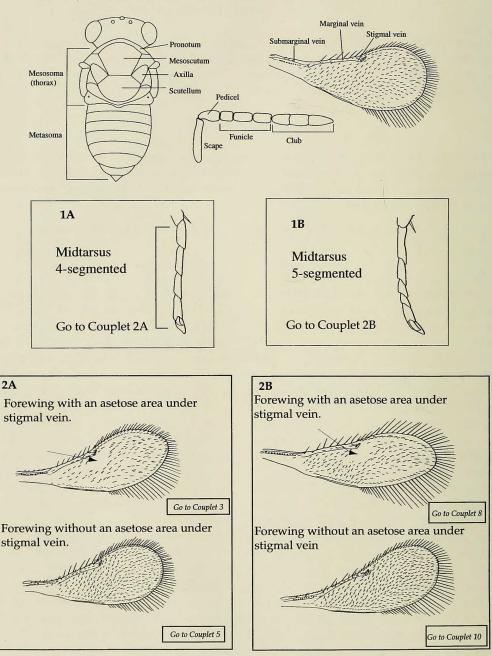
Key Words: Biological Control, Aphelinidae, Aleyrodidae, Encarsia, parasite

Various species of whiteflies (Aleyrodidae) are among the most serious of agricultural pests, causing millions of dollars of damage each year to various crops. In 1991, one species (Bemisia argentifolii Bellows and Perring) caused damage in excess of \$500 million in the U.S. alone (Perring et al. 1993). Among the most common and effective parasitoids of whiteflies are parasitic wasps in the genus Encarsia (Hymenoptera: Aphelinidae). These tiny wasps are primary parasites of whitefly species as well as species of scale insects (Coccoidea). Worldwide, over 170 Encarsia species have been described (Hayat 1989). In spite of their abundance and usefulness, there are still very few well-illustrated keys and diagnoses, and in North America, no recent identification aids exist. Because of their small size, identification of the various species is difficult under even the best of circumstances and requires the intervention of a specialist in aphelinid taxonomy.

In this paper, we treat the 27 species of *Encarsia* known to occur in North America that are parasitic on whiteflies. It is impor-

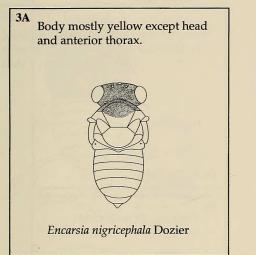
tant, therefore, to be reasonably sure that the species being keyed has been reared from a whitefly and not a scale insect. It is best if parasites are reared from individually segregated whitefly placed in small gel caps or some similar container. Several of these species were imported from various foreign countries into the region in prior biological control programs (e.g. E. lahorensis, Nguyen and Sailer 1979; E. partenopea (= E. inaron), Gould et al. 1992). Importations are continuing against pests such as Bemisia argentifolii and at least one species has been recently introduced into the U.S. (E. lutea, J. Goolsby, pers. comm.). It is widely recognized that several undescribed species of Encarsia are extant in North America and that other species, described from areas such as the Caribbean and Central America, may be present here but have not yet been discovered. This paper represents a starting point from which to continue our discovery and study of this important part of the fauna.

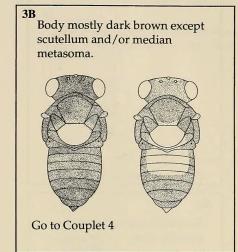
This pictorial key has been designed for non-specialists having limited access to col-



Key to Encarsia Parasitic on Whiteflies in North America

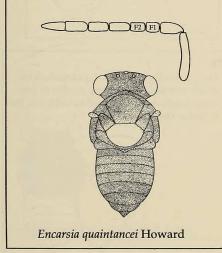
VOLUME 98, NUMBER 1





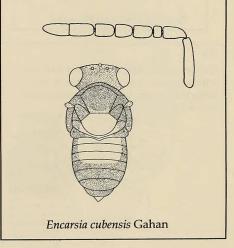
4A

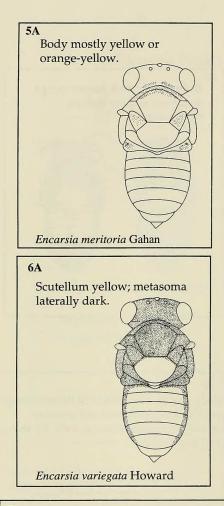
Body mostly dark brown except scutellum; female antenna with F1 about equal to F2.



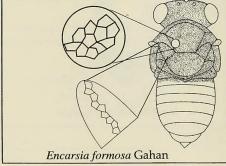
4B

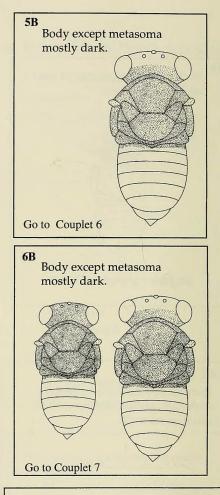
Body mostly dark brown to brown except median areas of thorax and anterior metasoma; female antenna with F1 about 1/2 length of F2.





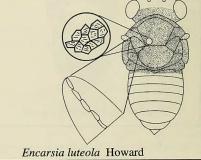
Occiput usually dark; reticulations on thorax without internal striations; number of cells along longitudinal axis of axilla usually more than 6. Males rare.

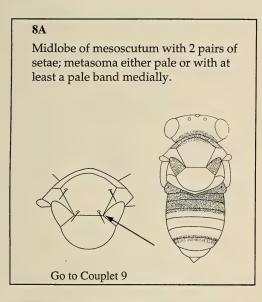




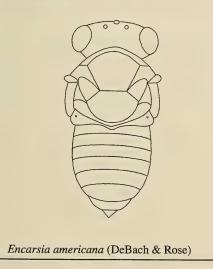
7B

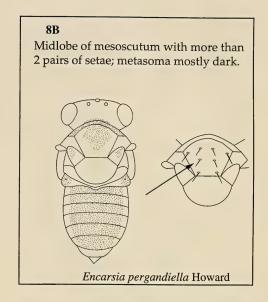
Occiput usually orange hued; reticulations on thorax with internal striations; number of cells along longitudinal axis of axilla usually less than 6. Males common.





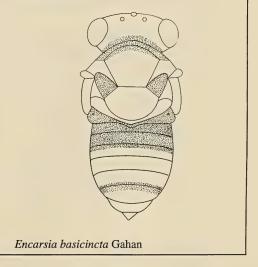
Body almost entirely yellow, there may be some small brown areas ventrally.



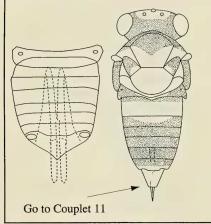


9B

Body with darkened area on anterior thorax, axillae, and anterior and posterior metasoma.

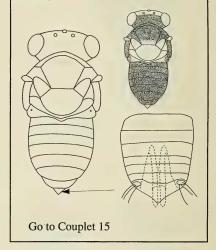


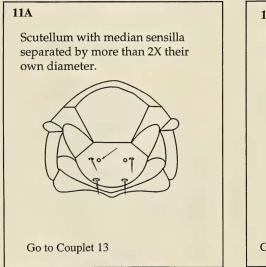
Ovipositor as long as the metasoma and distinctly exserted beyond tip; often covered dorsally by the enlarged last metasomal tergum which is longer than wide. (Note: this character can be difficult to assess accurately. If uncertain, proceed both ways.)



10**B**

Ovipositor shorter than metasoma; not or only slightly exserted beyond tip; last metasomal tergum not enlarged and wider than long.

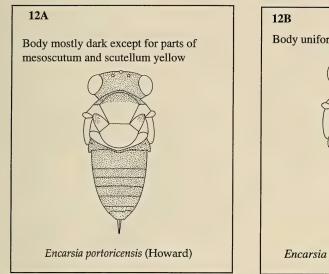


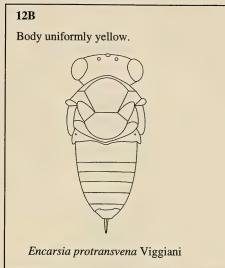


11B

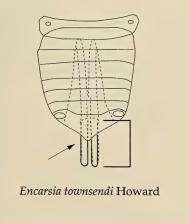
Scutellum with median sensilla close together (less than 2X their own diameter).

Go to Couplet 12



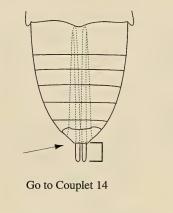


Terminal valve of sheaths 1/2 length of hind tibia.



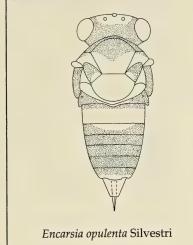
13B

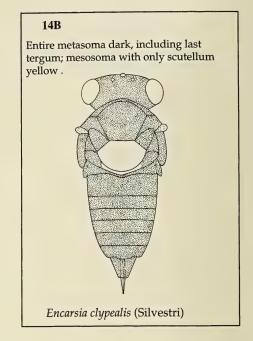
Terminal valve of sheaths less than 1/2 length of hind tibia.

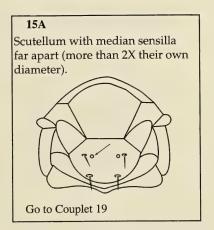


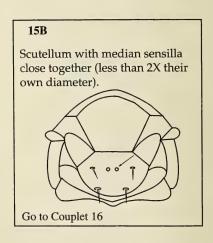


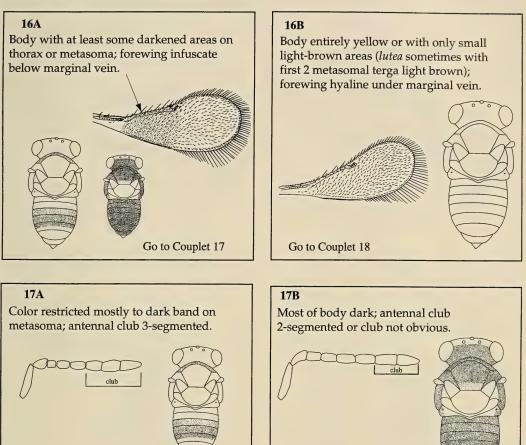
Anterior metasoma and last tergum yellow; much of dorsal mesosoma also yellow.



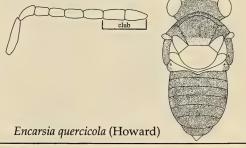




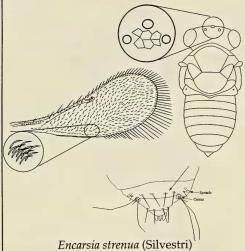




Encarsia citrella (Howard)

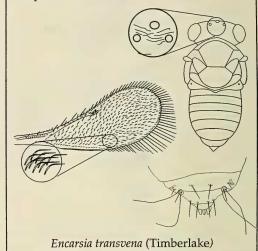


Metasoma with two pair of setae medial to cercus; forewing with normal setae near posterior margin; sculpture between ocelli reticulate.



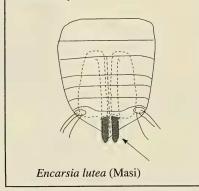
18B

Metasoma with one pairs of setae medial to cercus; forewing with patch of longer, coarse setae near posterior margin; sculpture between ocelli striate.



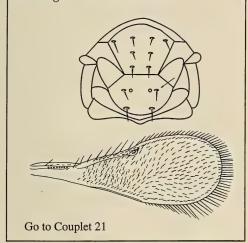
19A

Terminal valvulae of ovipositor dark brown in contrast to yellow color of rest of body.



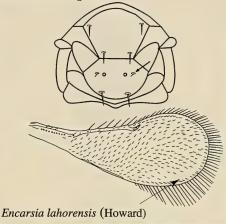
19B Terminal valvulae of ovipositor same color as rest of body.

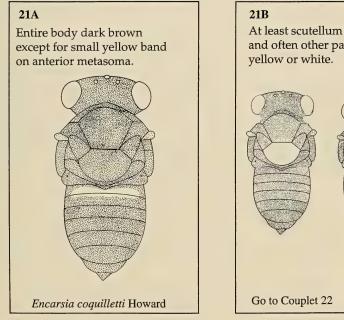
Mesoscutum with more than 2 pairs of setae; anterior scutellar setae about as large as posterior pair; posterior margin of forewing with scattered setae.

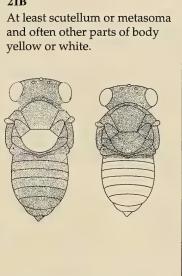


20B

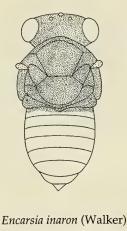
Mesoscutum with 2 pairs of setae; anterior scutellar setae small, not much longer than width of sensillae, much smaller than posterior pair; posterior margin of forewing with area lacking setae.





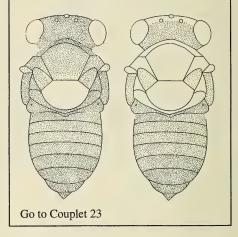


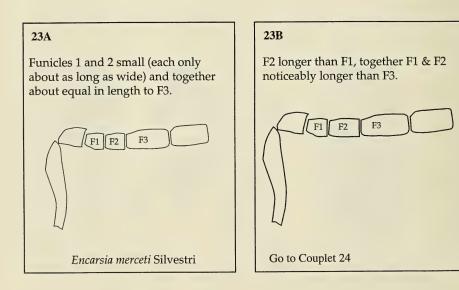
Head and thorax (and anterior margin of metasoma) entirely dark brown, contrasting with yellow metasoma.

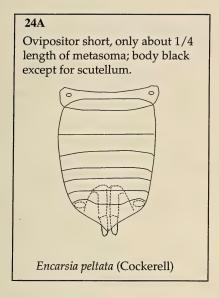


22B

At least scutellum and often posterior margin of mesoscutum and median propodeum yellow; metasoma usually at least partly dark.

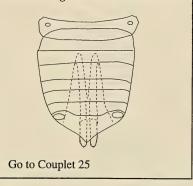






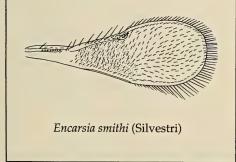
24B

Ovipositor longer, from 1/2 to about equal length of metasoma; body lighter, usually brown except for scutellum or scutellum and surrounding areas of mesosoma.



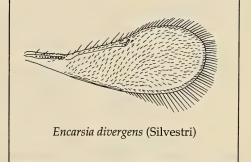
25A

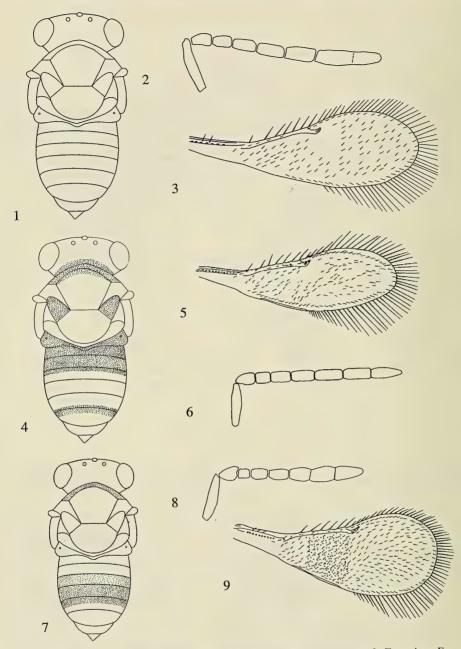
Forewing lightly infuscate below marginal vein; mesoscutum generally orange to whitish and scutellum whitish.



25B

Forewing hyaline; mesoscutum mostly dark brown except at lateral edges, scutellum white or yellow.





Figs. 1–9. 1, Habitus, *Encarsia americana*. 2, Female antenna, *E. americana*. 3, Forewing, *E. americana*. 4, Habitus, *E. basicincta*. 5, Forewing, *E. basicincta*. 6, Female antenna, *E. basicincta*. 7, Habitus, *E. citrella*. 8, Female antenna, *E. citrella*. 9, Forewing, *E. citrella*. Note: Habitus drawings indicate general coloration patterns and may not accurately reflect body proportions.

lections and literature. It is intended to key out female specimens, but males will sometimes key through the same couplets. Special characters of males are also noted in the species diagnosis. However, given that males are not known for some species, constructing a key for that sex is problematic at this time. Accurate identification of most species requires use of slide mounted specimens and a compound microscope. The dorsal habitus illustrations have been simplified and somewhat stylized to portray basic information about color patterns. They are not meant accurately to reflect specific characters (e.g. the relative length of the metasoma to the mesosoma). When specific characters are used, separate illustrations are provided. Caution should be used in assessing color patterns since they are known to show variation. We have tried to take this into consideration. While it would be unlikely to find all yellow specimens of a predominantly dark colored species it is more likely that a species portrayed as having only a yellow scutellum might also show light brown coloration on adjoining sclerites. Males, in particular, tend to be more darkly colored than females.

This document is available on diskette in Portable Document Format for Windows and Macintosh from the senior author.

Common names used in the text are from Stoetzel (1989).

Encarsia americana (DeBach and Rose) (Figs. 1–3)

Aleurodiphilus americanus DeBach and Rose 1981: 660.

Diagnosis: Body mostly yellow (Fig. 1), except for some small ventral brown areas; midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing with asetose area under stigmal vein (Fig. 3); F1 conspicuously shorter than F2 (Fig. 2); mesoscutal midlobe with only 2 pairs of setae (as in Fig. 28). This species is very similar to *basicincta*, which shares the presence of only two pairs of mesoscutal setae. However, *basicincta* has pronounced areas of dark coloration on the metasoma and some color on the pronotum and axillae (Fig. 4). *E. americana* is uniformly yellowish.

This species is most similar to *basicincta* and *pergandiella* (which were also previously placed in *Aleurodiphilus* by DeBach and Rose 1981). It is easily separated from those two species by the almost entirely yellow body (body with dark markings on mesosoma and metasoma in *basicincta* and *pergandiella*).

Hosts: *Aleurothrixus floccosus* (Maskell) (woolly whitefly).

Distribution: U.S. (CA), Mexico. Also recorded from Brazil, Honduras, Puerto Rico, and El Salvador.

Encarsia basicincta Gahan (Figs. 4–6)

Encarsia basicincta Gahan 1927: 20.

Diagnosis: Body mostly yellow, except for dark-brown band on anterior metasoma and some faint coloration on anterior mesosoma (Fig. 4); midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing narrow, with asetose area adjacent to stigmal vein (Fig. 5), marginal fringe nearly equal in length to width of wing; F1 conspicuously shorter than F2 (Fig. 6). Males unknown.

This species is most similar to *pergandiella* and *americana*. *E. pergandiella* has an inverted triangular infuscation on the mesoscutum (mesoscutum uniformly yellow except at anterior margin in *basicincta* and wholly yellow in *americana*); metasoma uniformly yellow in *americana* (with anterior brown band in *basicincta*); F1 subequal in length to F2 (F1 noticeably shorter than F2 in *basicinta* and *americana*); and mesoscutum with more than 2 pairs of setae in *pergandiella* (only 2 pairs in *basicincta*).

Hosts: *Aleurothrixus floccosus* (Maskell) (woolly whitefly), *Tetraleurodes ursorum* (Cockerell).

Distribution: U.S. (FL).

Encarsia citrella (Howard) (Figs. 7–9)

Prospaltella citrella Howard 1908: 282.

Diagnosis: Body mostly yellow, except for brown stripes on middle of metasoma (Fig. 7); mid tarsus 5-segmented; forewing without asetose area adjacent to stigmal vein and with a lightly infuscate area under marginal vein (Fig. 9); antennal club 3-segmented (Fig. 8); scutellar sensilla only separated about $2\times$ their diameter or less (as in Fig. 70).

This species is quite distinct among the species treated here but might be confused with either *strenua* or *transvena*, both of which, however have mostly yellow bodies and lack any infuscation on the forewing. The brown stripes on the metasoma of *citrella* set it apart from these two species.

Hosts: Aleuroplatus coronata (Quaintance); A. liquidambaris Russell (cited as A. elemerae Mound and Halsey); Bemisia argentifolii Bellows and Perring (formerly B. tabaci (Bellows et al. 1994)) (silverleaf whitefly).

Distribution: US (AZ, CA, FL).

Encarsia clypealis (Silvestri) (Figs. 10–12)

Prospaltella clypealis Silvestri 1927: 20.

Diagnosis: Body generally brown to dark brown except for scutellum (Fig. 10); midtarsus 5 segmented; forewing without asetose area at stigmal vein (Fig. 11); antenna with F1 quadrate, much shorter than F2 (Fig. 12); ovipositor appearing to be distinctly exserted beyond tip of metasoma; last metasomal tergum as long as wide and dark. This species is most similar to *opulenta*, which also has the ovipositor distinctly exserted beyond the tip of the metasoma. It can be differentiated from *opulenta* by color of the body (much of mesosoma and anterior gaster lightly colored in *opulenta* as well as last metasomal tergum).

Hosts: *Aleurocanthus woglumi* Ashby (citrus blackfly).

Distribution: U.S. (FL), Mexico. Originally described from Vietnam and known from much of southeast Asia.

Encarsia coquilletti Howard (Figs. 13, 14)

Encarsia coquilletti Howard 1895: 29.

Diagnosis: Body entirely brown to dark brown except for small transverse yellow area on anterior metasoma (Fig. 13); midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing without asetose area at stigmal vein (Fig. 14); ovipositor not obviously exserted beyond tip of metasoma; scutellar sensilla separated more than $2-3\times$ their diameter (as in Figs. 25, 28). This species is fairly distinctive because it is almost entirely dark colored (including the sctuellum). The other species which share most of the characters above have at least either the scutellum or most of the metasoma yellow or white (e.g. formosa, inaron, luteola).

Hosts: *Aleyrodes* sp. Distribution: U.S. (CA, ID, AZ, WA).

Encarsia cubensis Gahan (Figs. 15–17)

Encarsia cubensis Gahan 1931: 121.

Diagnosis: Body mostly dark colored except scutellum and anteromedian metasoma (Fig. 15); midtarsus 4-segmented; forewing with asetose area around stigmal vein (Fig. 16); F1 of antenna short, less than ½ length of F2 (Fig. 17). This species is most similar to *quaintancei* except that the latter species has a uniformly dark metasoma and F1 of the female antenna is subequal to F2.

Hosts: Aleurothrixus floccosus (Maskell) (woolley whitefly) (also cited as A. howardi (Quaintance), a junior synonym).

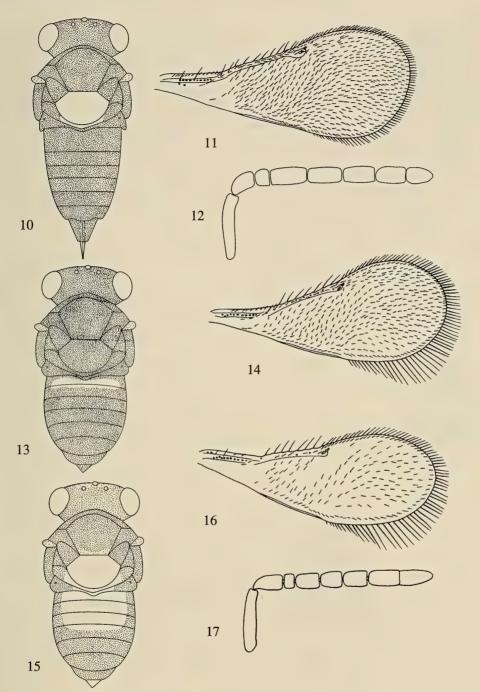
Distribution: U.S. (FL). Also recorded from the Caribbean and Brazil.

Encarsia divergens (Silvestri) (Figs. 18-21)

Prospaltella divergens Silvestri 1926: 182.

Diagnosis: Body generally light brown except for the posterior mesoscutum and scutellum, which are orangish or yellow (Fig. 18); midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing hyaline without asetose area at stigmal vein (Fig. 19); ovipositor not obviously exserted beyond tip of metasoma (Fig. 21); scutellar sensilla separated more than $2-3 \times$ their diameter (as in Fig. 25); F1 short, F2 about $2.5 \times$ as long as F1 (Fig. 20). In some specimens, the midlobe of the mesoscutum is

VOLUME 98, NUMBER 1

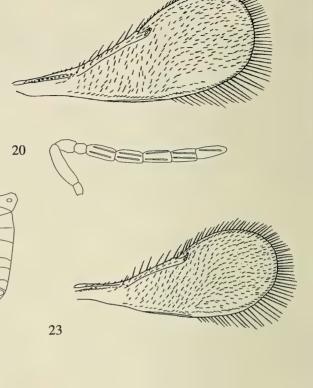


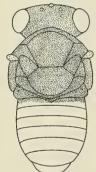
Figs. 10–17. 10, Habitus, *Encarsia clypealis*. 11, Forewing, *E. clypealis*. 12, Female antenna, *E. clypealis*. 13, Habitus, *E. coquilletti*. 14, Forewing, *E. coquilletti*. 15, Habitus, *E. cubensis*. 16, Forewing, *E. cubensis*. 17, Female antenna, *E. cubensis*. Note: Habitus drawings indicate general coloration patterns and may not accurately reflect body proportions.



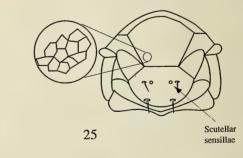












Figs. 18–26. 18, Habitus, *Encarsia divergens*. 19, Forewing, *E. divergens*. 20, Female antenna, *E. divergens*. 21, Metasoma, *E. divergens*. 22, Habitus, *E. formosa*. 23, Forewing, *E. formosa*. 24, Female antenna, *E. formosa*. 25, Dorsal mesosoma, *E. formosa*. 26, Habitus, *E. inaron*. Note: Habitus drawings indicate general coloration patterns and may not accurately reflect other proportions.

brown, contrasting with the yellow scutellum. This species is very similar to *smithi*. It can be separated from that species by the hyaline front wing (infuscate under venation in *smithi*), the coloration of the metasoma (very dark brown to black in *smithi*) and the relative lengths of F1 to F2 (F2 about $2 \times$ as long as F1 in *smithi*).

Hosts: Aleurocanthus citriperdus Quaintance and Baker, A. longispinus Quaintance and Baker, A. spiniferus (Quaintance) (orange spiny whitefly), A. woglumi Ashby (citrus blackfly).

Distribution: Mexico, Cuba. Originally described from Indonesia, and also known from India and Singapore.

Encarsia formosa Gahan (Figs. 22–25)

Encarsia formosa Gahan 1924: 14.

Diagnosis: Head (except antennae) and mesosoma brown to black, metasoma pale yellowish except at anterior edge (Fig. 22); midtarsus 4-segmented; forewing uniformly setose around stigmal vein (Fig. 23); distance between scutellar sensilla greater than $2 \times$ their diameter; number of reticulate cells along long axis of axilla usually more than 6; interior of mesoscutal areolae generally without fine striations (Fig. 25); antenna with F1 subequal to F2 (Fig. 24). Males uncommon (this species is usually uniparental); similar to the female, but with the metasoma dark. When present, males are very similar to those of luteola except for the following: scutellum dark (pale in *luteola*), funicle about $2.4 \times$ as long as wide (only about $2 \times$ as long as wide in *luteola*). Like the females, they lack fine striations within the interior of the mesoscutal areolae.

The characters that have been used to differentiate *formosa* and *luteola* have been shown to vary, and it is possible that the two species represent only population differences among one widespread species. However, because no formal synonymy has been published, we have kept the two species separate. There is also some evidence (A. Polaszek, pers. comm.) that males of these two species possess additional character differences (males of *formosa* are rare, but not unknown, unlike *luteola* in which males are common) and this may indicate that there are indeed two species.

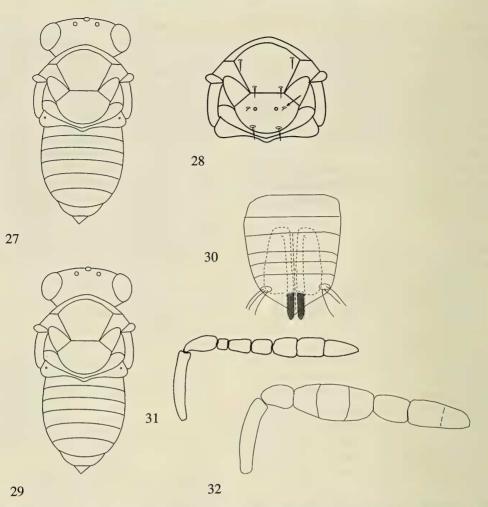
Hosts: Aleuroglandulus malangae Russell, Aleurotrachelus trachoides (Back), Aleyrodes lonicerae Walker, A. proletella (L.), A. spiraeoides Quaintance, Bemisia argentifolii Bellows and Perring (formerly B. tabaci (Bellows et al. 1994)) (silverleaf whitefly), Crenidorsum sp., Dialeurodes chittendeni Laing (rhododendron whitefly), D. citri (Ashmead) (citrus whitefly), Tetraleurodes mori (Quaintance) (mulberry whitefly), Trialeurodes abutiloneus (Haldeman) (bandedwinged whitefly), T. vaporariorum (Westwood) (greenhouse whitefly), T. variabilis (Quaintance).

Distribution: Widespread throughout North America. Has been introduced into many areas of the world for biological control.

Encarsia inaron (Walker) (Fig. 26)

Aphelinus inaron Walker 1839: 10. Aphelinus idaeus Walker 1839: 10. Encarsia partenopea Masi 1909: 32. Trychaporus aleyrodis Mercet 1930: 196.

Diagnosis: Head and mesosoma dark brown, metasoma yellow (sometimes with light infuscation laterally) (Fig. 26); midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing uniformly setose around stigmal vein (as in Fig. 23); distance between scutellar sensilla greater than $2\times$ their diameter; female antennal club 2-segmented. This species is similar in body color to formosa and luteola (both with midtarsus 4-segmented) with a light metasoma contrasting with dark head and mesosoma. This color pattern also separates it from other similar species such as coquilletti (metasoma mostly dark) and merceti or peltata (at least scutellum lightly colored).



Figs. 27–32. 27, Habitus, *Encarsia lahorensis*. 28, Dorsal mesosoma, *E. lahorensis*. 29, Habitus, *E. lutea*. 30, Metasoma, *E. lutea*. 31, Female antenna, *E. lutea*. 32, Male antenna, *E. lutea*. Note: Habitus drawings indicate general coloration patterns and may not accurately reflect other proportions.

Hosts: Acaudaleyrodes citri (Priesner and Hosny), Aleyrodes lonicerae Walker, A. proletella, A. singularis Danzig, Asterobemisia carpini (Koch), A. paveli (Zahradnik), Bemisia argentifolii (sweetpotato whitefly) (formerly B. tabaci (Bellows et al. 1994), Bemisia sp., Bulgarialeurodes cotesii (Maskell), Siphoninus immaculatus (Heeger), S. phillyreae (Haliday), Trialeurodes vaporariorum (Westwood) (greenhouse whitefly).

Distribution: U.S. (CA, FL), introduced. Europe, Africa, Asia.

Encarsia lahorensis (Howard) (Figs. 27, 28)

Prospaltella lahorensis Howard 1911: 132.

Diagnosis: Body uniformly yellow (Fig. 27); midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing without asetose area under stigmal vein; mesoscutum with 2 pairs of setae (Fig. 28); scutellar sensilla separated more than $2 \times$ their diameter, setae laterad of sensilla reduced. This species is distinctive because of the reduced anterior scutellar setae, but might be confused with *strenua* or *transvena* which are also uniformly yellow. However, those two species have the scutellar sensilla close together and the setae laterad of the sensilla are of normal size.

Hosts: Aleurodicus dispersus Russell, Dialeurodes citri (Ashmead) (citrus whitefly), D. citrifolii (Morgan) (cloudywinged whitefly), D. kirkaldyi (Kotinsky) (Kirkaldy whitefly). Also possibly a parasite of Trialeurodes ricini (Misra).

Distribution: U.S. (AL, AR, CA, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX). Also recorded from India, Israel, Italy, and Pakistan.

Encarsia lutea (Masi) (Figs. 29-32)

Prospaltella lutea Masi 1909: 25.

Diagnosis: Body uniformly yellow except for black terminal valvulae (Fig. 30); midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing without asetose area around stigmal vein; scutellar sensilla separated more than $2\times$ their diameter; F1 quadrate and shorter than F2 (Fig. 31); ovipositor about half length of metasoma, third valvulae (terminal sheaths) dark in contrast to rest of body. The distinct coloration of the terminal valvulae sets this species apart from all others in North America.

Males of *E. lutea* have the first 3 funicular segments enlarged and club-like (Fig. 32).

Hosts: This species is very polyphagous and has been recorded from a large number of hosts including *Acuadaleyrodes citri* (Preisner and Hosny), *Bemisia argentifolii* Bellows and Perring (formerly *B. tabaci* (Bellows et al. 1994)) (silverleaf whitefly), and *Trialeurodes vaporariorum* (Westwood) (greenhouse whitefly).

Distribution: U.S. (TX). Recorded from most other regions of the world.

Notes: *E. lutea* was released for the first time in the U.S. in Texas in 1995 (J. Goolsby, pers. comm.).

Encarsia luteola Howard (Figs. 33, 34) Encarsia luteola Howard 1895: 29. Encarsia angelica Howard 1895: 30.

Encarsia deserti Gerling and Rivnay 1984: 439.

Diagnosis: Head with occiput dark orange, rest of head (except antennae) and mesosoma dark brown to black, metasoma pale yellowish (Fig. 33); midtarsus 4-segmented; forewing uniformly setose around stigmal vein; distance between scutellar sensilla greater than $2 \times$ their diameter; interior of mesoscutal areolae with fine striations (Fig. 34). Males common (this species is usually biparental). Similar to the female, but with the scutellum pale. Males are very similar to those of formosa except with funicles about $2.0 \times$ as long as wide (about 2.4 \times as long as wide in *formosa*). Like the females, they have fine striations within the interior of the mesoscutal areolae

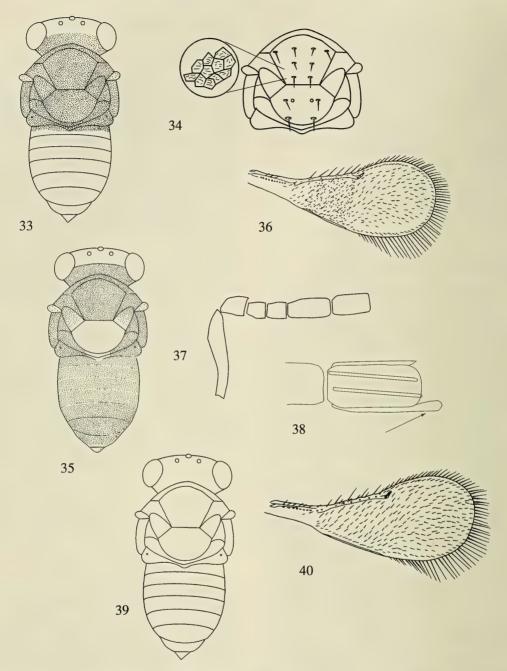
Hosts: Aleyrodes sp., Bemisia argentifolii Bellows and Perring (formerly *B. tabaci* (Bellows et al. 1994)) (silverleaf whitefly), *Dialeurodes* sp., Aleurocybotus occiduus Russell, *Trialeurodes abutiloneus* (Haldeman) (bandedwinged whitefly), *T. ferrnaldi* (Morill), *T. packardi* (Morill) (strawberry whitefly), *T. vaporariorum* (Westwood) (greenhouse whitefly), *T. variabilis* (Quaintance).

Distribution: U.S. (AZ, CA, CT, FL, MS, PA, DC). Also occurs in Central and South America and has been introduced into Israel.

Encarsia merceti Silvestri (Figs. 35–38)

Encarsia merceti Silvestri 1926: 187.

Diagnosis: Body mostly dark brown except yellow on vertex, scutellum (Fig. 35), and occasionally posterior mesoscutum; midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing without asetose area under stigmal vein, infuscate under marginal vein (Fig. 36); scutellar sensilla separated by more than $2 \times$ their own diameter; antenna with F1 and F2 small (quadrate) (Fig. 37); combined approximately equalling length of F3. This species is similar to *smithi* from which it may be



Figs. 33–40. 33, Habitus, *Encarsia luteola*. 34, Dorsal mesosoma, *E. luteola*. 35, Habitus, *E. merceti*. 36, Forewing, *E. merceti*. 37, Anterior portion of female antenna, *E. merceti*. 38, First funicular segment of male, *E. merceti*. 39, Habitus, *E. meritoria*. 40, Forewing, *E. meritoria*. Note: Habitus drawings indicate general coloration patterns and may not accurately reflect other proportions.

separated by the length of F2 (F2 about 2X as long as F1 in *smithi* and F1 and F2 about equal in *merceti*). *E. merceti* might also be confused with *peltata* which is also mostly dark bodied. However, the forewing of *peltata* shows no infuscation under the marginal vein and does not have the smaller quadrate F1 and F2 present in *merceti*.

Males of *E. merceti* have a distinctive enlarged sensillum on the first funicular segment that extends, balloon-like, from the end of the segment (Fig. 38).

Hosts: Aleurocanthus citriperdus Quaintance and Baker, A. spiniferus (Quaintance), A. woglumi Ashby (citrus blackfly).

Distribution: Mexico, Cuba, Asia.

Encarsia meritoria Gahan (Figs. 39, 40)

Encarsia meritoria Gahan 1927: 19. Encarsia hispida DeSantis 1948: 45.

Diagnosis: Body uniformly orange or orange yellow (Fig. 39); midtarsus 4-segmented; forewing uniformly setose around stigmal vein (Fig. 40); distance between scutellar sensilla greater than $2 \times$ their diameter (as in Fig. 25). Among the group of species with 4-segmented midtarsi and no asetose area under the stigmal vein, *meritoria* is the only one that is mostly yellow bodied. The others (*variegata, formosa, luteola*) have extensive areas of the mesosoma brown to dark brown.

Hosts: Aleuroglandulus malangae Russell, Aleurothrixus porteri Quaintance and Baker, Aleyrodes spiraeoides Quaintance, Bemisia argentifolii Bellows and Perring (formerly B. tabaci (Bellows et al. 1994)) (silverleaf whitefly), Dialeurodes sp., Siphoninus phillyreae Haliday, Tetraleurodes acaciae (Quaintance), Trialeurodes abutiloneus (Haldeman) (bandedwinged whitefly), T. floridensis (Quaintance) (avocado whitefly), T. vaporariorum (Westwood) (greenhouse whitefly), T. variabilis (Quaintance).

Distribution: U.S. (CA, FL). Also occurs in Mexico and Central and South America. Notes: *Encarsia hispida* was first synoymized with *meritoria* by Viggiani (1989) and then resurrected by Polaszek et al. (1992). We now believe that the original synonymization was correct and have combined the two names.

Encarsia nigricephala Dozier (Figs. 41-44)

Encarsia nigricephala Dozier 1937: 129.

Diagnosis: Head and anterior mesoscutum dark brown (Fig. 41), rest of body yellow; midtarsus 4-segmented; F1 shorter than pedicel and club 3-segmented (Fig. 42); forewing with asetose area under stigmal vein (Fig. 43); mesoscutum with 2 pairs of setae (Fig. 44); distance between scutellar sensilla more than $2 \times$ diameter of sensilla. The dark head and anterior mesoscutum contrasting with the pale color of the rest of the body in combination with the 4-segmented midtarsi and asetose area on the forewing, make the female readily recognizable from other *Encarsia* species.

Males have the 1st and 2nd funicular segments enlarged and with large rounded sensilla. Likewise, the strangely swollen 1st and 2nd funicles of the male make it readily recognizable (male *quaintancei* also have F1 and F2 enlarged, but that species has 3– 4 pairs of mesoscutal setae and male *lutea* have the first 3 funicles enlarged).

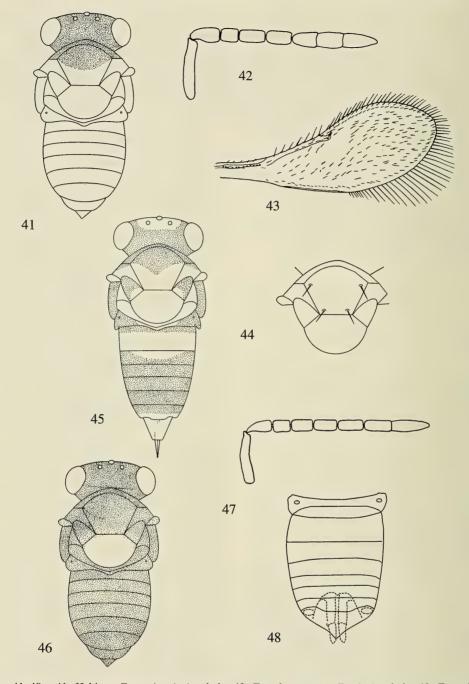
Hosts: Bemisia argentifolii Bellows and Perring (formerly B. tabaci (Bellows et al. 1994)) (silverleaf whitefly); Trialeurodes abutiloneus (Haldeman) (bandedwinged whitefly), T. floridensis (Quaintance) (avocado whitefly), T. vaporariorum (Westwood) (greenhouse whitefly).

Distribution: U.S. (FL, GA, TX). Also widespread in Mexico and Central and South America.

Encarsia opulenta Silvestri (Fig. 45)

Encarsia opulenta Silvestri 1928: 30.

Diagnosis: Area around ocelli, posterior mesoscutum, scutellum, anterior and pos-



Figs. 41–48. 41, Habitus, *Encarsia nigricephala*. 42, Female antenna, *E. nigricephala*. 43, Forewing, *E. nigricephala*. 44, Dorsal mesosoma, *E. nigricephala*. 45, Habitus, *E. opulenta*. 46, Habitus, *E. peltata*. 47, Female antenna, *E. peltata*. 48, Metasoma, *E. peltata*. Note: Habitus drawings indicate general coloration patterns and may not accurately reflect body proportions.

terior tip of metasoma yellow, rest of body brown (Fig. 45); midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing uniformly setose around stigmal vein; distance between scutellar sensilla greater than $2 \times$ their diameter (as in Fig. 25); ovipositor appearing distinctly exserted, last metasomal tergite as long as wide. This species is most similar to *clypealis* which shares the elongated last gastral tergum and ovipositor appearing exserted. However, *clypealis* differs from *opulenta* in being almost uniformly dark colored except for the yellow scutellum (Fig. 10).

Hosts: Aleurocanthis citriperdus Quaintance and Baker, A. spiniferus (Quaintance), A. woglumi Ashby (citrus blackfly).

Distribution: U.S. (FL, TX), Mexico, Cuba. Also Asia, Pakistan.

Encarsia peltata (Cockerell) (Figs. 46–48)

Mimatomus peltatus Cockerell 1911: 464.

Diagnosis: Body dark brown to black with yellow scutellum (Fig. 46); midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing without asetose area under stigmal vein; antenna with F2 longer than F1 (Fig. 47); scutellar sensilla separated by more than $2 \times$ their own diameter and scutellum with 2 pairs of equal sized setae (as in Fig. 25); ovipositor short, less than ¹/₃ length of metasoma (Fig. 48). This species is similar to merceti, townsendi, and divergens. It is unusual in that it has a very short ovipositor compared to the other species (ovipositor usually at least half as long as metasoma and often as long as metasoma). Also, in most of the other species other parts of the mesosoma beside the scutellum are lighter colored than the surrounding dark areas.

Hosts: Aleyrodes pruniosus Bemis (cited as A. pruinosa euphorbianum Cockerell). Distribution: U.S. (CA).

> Encarsia pergandiella Howard (Figs. 49–51)

Encarsia pergandiella Howard 1907: 78. *Encarsia versicolor* Girault 1908: 53. Encarsia bemisiae DeSantis 1981: 37.

Encarsia tabacivora Viggiani 1985: 82 (as replacement name for *bemisiae* De-Santis).

Diagnosis: Body largely yellow except for pronotum, inverted triangular brown spot in central mesonotum and larger area on metasoma (Fig. 49); midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing narrow, with asetose area adjacent to stigmal vein (Fig. 51), marginal fringe about 1/2 wing width and membrane of wing generally lightly infuscated beneath venation; F1 about equal in length to F2 (Fig. 50). Males similar to females, with triangular mesonotal spot usually more heavily infuscated and axillae and metasoma dark brown. This species is most similar to basicincta. In that species, there is no triangular spot on the mesonotum (mesonotum uniformly yellow), and F1 is shorter than F2. Males of basicincta are unknown.

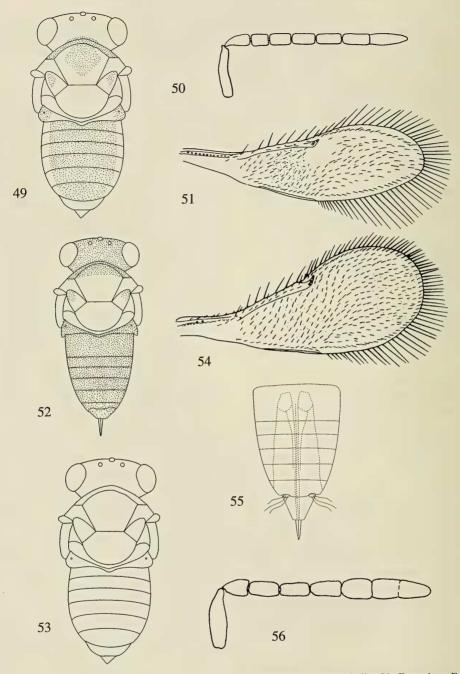
Hosts: Aleyrodes sp., Aleurodicus dispersus Russell, Aleuroglandulus malangae Russell, Aleuroplatus coronata (Back), A. elemerae Mound and Halsey, Aleurothrixus floccosus (Maskell) (woolly whitefly), Aleurotrachelus trachoides (Quaintance), Bemisia argentifolii Bellows and Perring (formerly B. tabaci (Bellows et al. 1994)) (silverleaf whitefly), Dialeurodes citri (Ashmead) (citrus whitefly), D. kirkaldyi (Kotinsky) (Kirkaldy whitefly), Trialeuordes abutiloneus (Haldeman) (bandedwinged whitefly), T. floridensis (Quaintance) (avocado whitefly), T. vaporariorum (Westwood) (greenhouse whitefly), T. variabilis (Quaintance).

Distribution: U.S. (CA, DC, FL, GA, IL, MA, NY, PA, SC, TX). Also occurs in Mexico, most of Central and South America, and has been introduced into Italy.

Encarsia portoricensis Howard (Fig. 52)

Encarsia portoricensis Howard 1907: 77.

Diagnosis: Body with head orange brown, pronotum, anterior mesocutum, anterior axillae, propodeum and metasoma



Figs. 49–56. 49, Habitus, E. pergandiella. 50, Female antenna, E. pergandiella. 51, Forewing, E. pergandiella. 52, Habitus, E. portoricensis. 53, Habitus, E. protransvena. 54, Forewing, E. protransvena. 55, Metasoma, E. protransvena. 56, Female antenna, E. protransvena. Note: Habitus drawings indicate general coloration patterns and may not accurately reflect body proportions.

brown, posterior mesoscutum, scutellum and posterior axillae yellow (Fig. 52); midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing without asetose spot near stigmal vein; scutellar sensilla round and separated slightly less than $2\times$ their own diameter (as in Fig. 69); ovipositor as long as metasoma and slightly exserted. This species is very similar to *townsendi*. It can be separated from that species by the color of the mesosoma (*townsendi* has only the scutellum yellow) and the separated about $3.5\times$ their own diameter in *townsendi*).

Host: Aleyrodes sp., Aleurodicus antillensis Dozier.

Distribution: Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Notes: In his original description, Howard (1907) noted that he had a specimen of this species from Mexico (the types were from Puerto Rico). I have been unable to find this specimen in the USNM collection and this diagnosis is based upon the Puerto Rican specimens. Some specimens collected by Dozier (USNM) have the posterior metasoma fading to yellow and the head lighter orange than the types.

Encarsia protransvena Viggiani (Figs. 53–56)

Encarsia protransvena Viggiani 1985: 89.

Diagnosis: Body yellow in color (Fig. 53). Mid tarsi 5-segmented; forewing without an asetose area under the stigmal vein, membrane without infuscation below marginal vein and without lengthened setae along posterior wing margin (Fig. 54); scutellar sensilla close together, separated by less than $2 \times$ their diameter (as in Fig. 69); antenna with 3-segmented club (Fig. 56); ovipositor about as long as metasoma and appearing exserted (Fig. 55). This species is very similar to strenua. However, the ovipositor in protransvena is much longer (about equal to the length of the metasoma and appearing to be exserted) than in strenua (about 1/2 length of metasoma and not appearing exserted).

Hosts: Aleurolobus subrotundus Silvestri, Dialeurodes citri (Ashmead) (citrus whitefly), D. citrifolii (Morgan) (cloudywinged whitefly), D. kirkaldyi (Kotinsky) (Kirkaldy whitefly).

Distribution: U.S. (FL), Puerto Rico.

Notes: Several specialists believe that this species is the same as *Encarsia armata* (Silvestri), a species known only from Vietnam. However, to date no synonymy of the two names has been published.

Encarsia quaintancei Howard (Figs. 57–60)

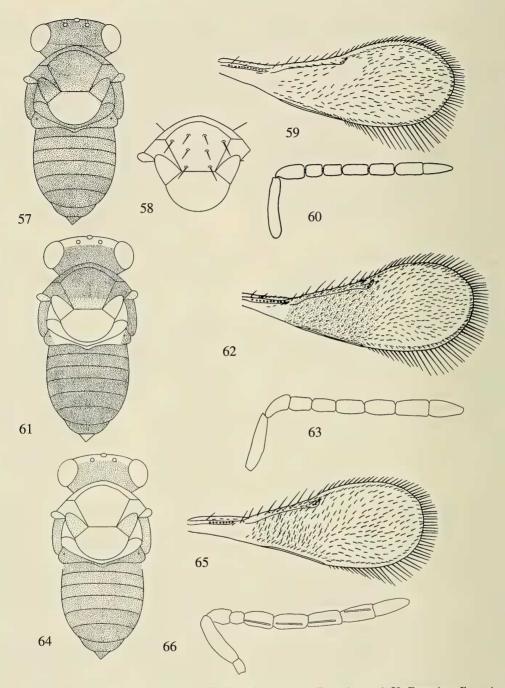
Encarsia quaintancei Howard 1907: 79. Prospaltella perspicuipennis Girault 1910: 234.

Diagnosis: Generally dark brown contrasting with bright-yellow scutellum (Fig. 57); midtarsus 4-segmented; forewing with asetose area around stigmal vein (Fig. 59); antenna with F1 and F2 subequal (Fig. 60); mesoscutum with 3 or 4 pairs of setae (Fig. 58). This species is most similar to *cubensis* but can be separated by the color of the metasoma (large anterior yellow spot in *cubensis*) and the antenna (F1 only about ¹/₂ as long as F2 in *cubensis*).

Male with F1 and F2 enlarged, F2 with rounded sensory structures. Males of this species are very similar to males of *nigricephala*, which also has the basal funicle segments enlarged. *E. nigricephala* males can be separated by the presence of only 2 pairs of mesoscutal setae (3–4 pairs in *quaintancei*) and F3 shorter than F2 (longer than F2 in *quaintancei*).

Hosts: Aleurothrixus floccosus (Maskell) (woolly whitefly), Bemisia argentifolii Bellows and Perring (formerly B. tabaci (Bellows et al. 1994)) (silverleaf whitefly), Trialeurodes abutlioneus (Haldeman) (bandedwinged whitefly), T. packardi (Morill) (strawberry whitefly), Trialeurodes sp. Records of this species from Aleyrodes sp. are probably erroneous.

Distribution: U.S. (DC, FL, IL, LA, MD,



Figs. 57-66. 57, Habitus, *E. quaintancei.* 58, Dorsal mesosoma, *E. quaintancei.* 59, Forewing, *E. quaintancei.* 60, Female antenna, *E. quaintancei.* 61, Habitus, *E. quercicola.* 62, Forewing, *E. quercicola.* 63, Female antenna, *E. quercicola.* 64, Habitus, *E. smithi.* 65, Forewing, *E. smithi.* 66, Female antenna, *E. smithi.* Note: Habitus drawings indicate general coloration patterns and may not accurately reflect body proportions.

MS), Mexico, El Salvador, Venezuela, and the Caribbean.

Encarsia quercicola (Howard) (Figs. 61–63)

Prospaltella quercicola Howard 1908: 282.

Diagnosis: Body mostly dark brown except for yellow scutellum and surrounding area (Fig. 61); midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing without asetose area adjacent to stigmal vein and with a lightly infuscate area under marginal vein (Fig. 62); antennal club 2-segmented (Fig. 63); scutellar sensilla only separated by about $2\times$ their diameter or less (as in Fig. 69). This species is closest to *citrella* and can be separated by the first antennal funicle (subequal to F2 in *quercicola* but only ½ length of F2 in *citrella*).

Hosts: *Aleuroplatus coronata* (Quaintance), *A. gelatinosus* (Cockerell). Distribution: U.S. (CA).

> Encarsia smithi (Silvestri) (Figs. 64-66)

Prospaltella smithi Silvestri 1926: 179.

Diagnosis: Head and most of mesosoma light brown, most of mesoscutum and scutellum orangish, propodeum and metasoma dark brown to black (Fig. 64); midtarsus 5segmented; forewing without asetose area under stigmal vein, with light infuscation under marginal vein (Fig. 65); scutellar sensilla separated by more than $2 \times$ their own diameter (as in Fig. 25); antenna with F1 about ½ length of F2 (Fig. 66); ovipositor not exserted beyond tip of abdomen. This species will key to near divergens which is very similar in coloration. However, divergens has no noticeable infuscation on the forewing and F2 of the antenna is longer (about $2.5 \times$ as long as F1).

Hosts: Aleurocanthus citriperdus Quaintance and Baker, A. spiniferus (Quaintance) (orange spiny whitefly), A. woglumi Ashby (citrus blackfly).

Distribution: Mexico, Cuba, Asia.

Encarsia strenua (Silvestri) (Figs. 67–70)

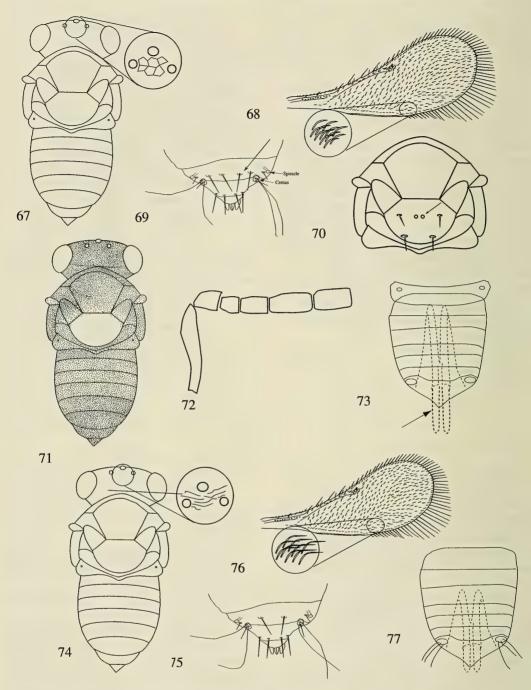
Prospaltella strenua Silvestri 1927: 34.

Diagnosis: Body yellow (Fig. 67); midtarsus 5-segmented; forewing without an asetose area under the stigmal vein, membrane without infuscation below marginal vein and without lengthened setae along posterior wing margin (Fig. 68); scutellar sensilla separated by less than $2 \times$ their diameter, often nearly touching (Fig. 70); vertex with reticulate sculpture (Fig. 67); metasoma with 2 pairs of setae medially between the cerci (Fig. 69); ovipositor only about half as long as metasoma and not appearing exserted. This species is very similar to both transvena and protransvena. Encarsia protransvena can be separated by the longer ovipositor (about equal in length to the metasoma and appearing exserted beyond the tip). E. transvena has striate sculpturing on the vertex (difficult to assess in many specimens), only one pair of setae between the cerci (Fig. 75), and a patch of elongated setae on the hind margin of the wing.

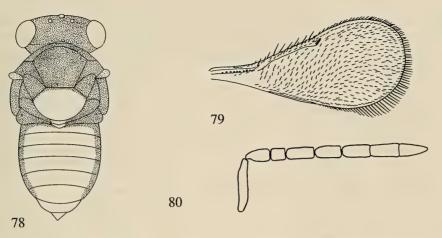
Hosts: *B. argentifolii* Bellows and Perring (formerly *B. tabaci* (Bellows et al. 1994)) (silverleaf whitefly), *Bemisia giffardi* (Kotinsky) (Giffard whitefly), *Dialeurodes citri* (Ashmead) (citrus whitefly), *D. citrifolii* (Morgan) (cloudywinged whitefly), *D. kirkaldyi* (Kotinsky) (Kirkaldy whitefly), *Trialeurodes packardi* (Morrill) (strawberry whitefly).

Distribution: U.S. (CA, FL). Puerto Rico, Honduras, Asia.

Notes: The limits of this group of species (*strenua, transvena,* or *protransvena*) are the subject of continuing debate and separating them can be difficult and requires properly cleared and mounted specimens. Some characters, such as the length of setae on the forewing require experience or exemplars of the other species for comparison. Assessment of the sculpture of the vertex requires specimens mounted in the proper position. The most reliable character



Figs. 67–77. 67, Habitus, Encarsia strenua. 68, Forewing, E. strenua. 69, Dorsal posterior metasoma, E. strenua. 70, Dorsal mesosoma, E. strenua. 71, Habitus, E. townsendi. 72, Female antenna, E. townsendi. 73, metasoma, E. townsendi. 74, Habitus, E. transvena. 75, Dorsal posterior metasoma, E. transvena. 76, Forewing, E. transvena. 77, Metasoma, E. transvena. Note: Habitus drawings indicate general coloration patterns and may not accurately reflect body proportions.



Figs. 78–80. 78, Habitus, *E. variegata*. 79, Forewing, *E. variegata*. 80, Female antenna, *E. variegata*. Note: Habitus drawings indicate general coloration patterns and may not accurately reflect body proportions.

appears to be the number of setae between the cerci.

Encarsia townsendi Howard (Figs. 71–73)

Encarsia townsendi Howard 1907: 78.

Diagnosis: Body brown with yellowish scutellum (Fig. 71). Mid tarsi 5-segmented; forewing without asetose area under stigmal vein; antennae with F2 longer than F1 (Fig. 72); scutellar sensilla separated by about $3.5 \times$ their own diameter and scutellum with 2 pairs of equal-sized setae; ovipositor long, as long as metasoma and exserted (Fig. 73), terminal ovipositor sheaths about 1/2 length of midtibia. This species is very similar to E. portoricensis which shares the elongated terminal ovipositor sheaths of this species. It can be differentiated from that species by the color of the mesosoma (scutellum, posterior mesoscutum and part of axillae yellow in *portoricensis*) and the separation of the scutellar sensilla (sensilla separated slightly less than $2 \times$ their own diameter in portoricensis).

Hosts: *Aleyrodes* sp. Distribution: Mexico.

Encarsia transvena (Timberlake) (Figs. 74–77)

Prospaltella transvena Timberlake 1926: 312.

Prospaltella sublutea Silvestri 1931: 20.
Prospaltella flava Shafee 1973: 254 (preoc. by flavus Compere, 1936).
Encarsia shafeei Hayat 1989: 72 (replacement name for flava Shafee).
Prospaltella bemisiae Ishii 1938: 30.

Diagnosis: Body yellowish (Fig. 74); midtarsus 5-segmented; vertex with striate sculpture between ocelli (Fig. 74); forewing without asetose area under stigmal vein and with area of elongated setae near posterior edge of membrane (Fig. 76); antennae with F2 longer than F1; scutellar sensilla separated by less than $2 \times$ their own diameter, and scutellum with 2 pairs of equal sized setae; metasoma with a single pair of setae medially between the cerci (Fig. 75); ovipositor only about half as long as metasoma and not appearing exserted (Fig. 77). This species is very similar to strenua and it can be very difficult to tell the two apart. The wing character (group of longer setae in transvena and shorter setae in strenua) can be difficult to assess without specimens of both species for comparison. The presence of only a single pair of setae between the cerci on the dorsal metasoma separates strenua (two pairs of setae between cerci) and the pattern of sculpture on the vertex seems reliable (striate in transvena and reticulate in strenua) but is also often difficult

Table 1. List of whitefly species with North American Encarsia species that have been reared from them.

Acaudaleyrodes citri (Priesner and Hosny)	inaron, lutea
Aleurocanthus citriperdus Quaintance and Baker	divergens, merceti, opulenta, smithi
A. longispinus Quaintance and Baker	divergens
A. spiniferus (Quaintance)	divergens, merceti, opulenta, smithi
A. woglumi Ashby	clypealis, divergens, merceti, opulenta, smithi
Aleurocybotus occiduus Russell	luteola
Aleurocybotus indicus David and Subramaniam	transvena
Aleurodes sp.	townsendi
Aleurodicus antillensis Dozier	portoricensis
A. dispersus Russell	lahorensis, pergandiella,
	transvena
A. sp.	variegata
Aleuroglandulus malangae Russell	formosa, meritoria,
	pergandiella
Aleurolobus subrotundus Silvestri	protransvena
Aleuroplatus coronata (Quaintance)	citrella, pergandiella,
	quercicola
A. gelatinosus (Cockerell)	quercicola
A. elemerae Mound and Halsey	pergandiella
A. liquidambaris Russell	citrella
Aleurothrixus floccosus (Maskell)	americana, basicincta, cubensis, pergandiella,
	quaintancei, variegata
A. porteri Quaintance and Baker	meritoria
Aleurotrachelus trachoides (Back)	formosa, pergandiella
Aleyrodes lonicerae Walker	formosa, inaron
A. proletella (L.)	formosa, inaron
Aleyrodes pruniosus Bemis	peltata
A. singularis Danzig	inaron
A. spiraeoides Quaintance	formosa, meritoria
Aleyrodes sp.	coquilletti, luteola,
	pergandiella, portoricensis
Asterobemisia carpini (Koch)	inaron in
A. paveli (Zahradnik)	inaron citualla formona ingron
Bemisia argentifolii Bellows and Perring	citrella, formosa, inaron,
	lutea, luteola, nigricephala,
	pergandiella, quaintancei,
Dominia ciffordi (Kotinelar)	strenua, transvena
Bemisia giffardi (Kotinsky)	strenua
Bemisia sp.	
inaron Bula ani alauna dan antanii (Mashall)	in an an
Bulgarialeurodes cotesii (Maskell)	inaron
Crenidorsum sp.	formosa formosa
Dialeurodes chittendeni Laing	formosa formosa laboransis
D. citri (Ashmead)	formosa, lahorensis,
	pergandiella, protransvena, strenua
D. citrifolii (Morgan)	
D. citrifolii (Morgan)	lahorensis, protransvena,
D. kinkaldui (Kotinsku)	strenua laborensis pergandiella
D. kirkaldyi (Kotinsky)	lahorensis, pergandiella,

protransvena, strenua

Table 1. Continued.

Whitefly species	Encarsia species
<i>D.</i> sp.	luteola, meritoria
Parabemisia myricae (Kuwana)	transvena
Paraleyrodes perseae (Quaintance)	variegata
P. naranjae (Quaintance)	variegata
Siphoninus immaculatus (Heeger)	inaron
S. phillyreae (Haliday)	inaron, meritoria
Tetraleurodes mori (Quaintance)	formosa
T. ursorum (Cockerell)	basicincta
Trialeurodes abutiloneus (Haldeman)	formosa, luteola, nigricephala pergandiella, quaintancei
T. ferrnaldi (Morill)	luteola
T. floridensis (Quaintance)	nigricephala, pergandiella
T. packardi (Morill)	luteola, quaintancei, strenua
T. ricini (Misra)	lahorensis (not confirmed)
T. vaporariorum (Westwood)	formosa, inaron, lutea, luteola, nigricephala, pergandiella, transvena
T. variabilis (Quaintance)	formosa, luteola, pergandiella
<i>T.</i> sp.	quaintancei

to assess because in many mounted specimens the head is at the wrong angle or is incompletely cleared.

Hosts: Aleurocybotus indicus David and Subramaniam, Aleurodicus dispersus Russell, Bemisia argentifolii Bellows and Perring (formerly B. tabaci (Bellows et al. 1994)) (silverleaf whitefly), Parabemisia myricae (Kuwana), Trialeurodes vaporariorum (Westwood) (greenhouse whitefly).

Distribution: U.S. (CA, FL). Mexico and occurs over almost all of the Old World.

Encarsia variegata Howard (Figs. 78-80)

Encarsia variegata Howard 1908: 64.

Diagnosis: Head, mesoscutum and anterior scutellum dark brown; scutellum and metasoma (except laterally) yellow (Fig. 78); midtarsus 4-segmented; forewing uniformly setose around stigmal vein (Fig. 79); distance between scutellar sensilla greater than $2 \times$ their diameter (as in Fig. 25), F1 only about $\frac{1}{2}$ as long as F2 (Fig. 80). This species is quite close to *luteola* and *formosa* and can be separated by color (*luteola* and *formosa* have the entire mesosoma uniformly brown to dark brown).

Hosts: Aleurodicus sp., Aleurothrixus floccosus (Maskell) (woolly whitefly), Paraleyrodes perseae (Quaintance), P. naranjae (Quaintance) (plumeria whitefly).

Distribution: U.S. (CA, FL). Also occurs in the Caribbean and Mexico.

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